

## Equatorial Guinea: President visits Moscow for Investment in Mining

November 4, 2023

*Please see the Editorial Comments on the last page.*

November 2, 2023: Moscow, Russia: President Obiang said, "Equatorial Guinea would warmly welcome the participation of Russian companies, particularly those involved in the mining industry."



*November 2, 2023: Novo-Ogaryovo, Moscow Region, Russia:  
President **Teodoro Obiang Nguema** (left) and President **Vladimir Putin** (right)*

President Putin expressed Russia's keen interest in expanding its presence in Africa, including Equatorial Guinea, emphasizing the vast investment opportunities available. He specifically highlighted the country's potential for minerals extraction as an area of great potential.

President **Obiang Nguema Mbasogo** conveyed his plans **to strengthen defense and economic cooperation** between Equatorial Guinea and Russia.

Both the leaders anticipated that the **opening of Russia's embassy in Equatorial Guinea** before the end of the year would further enhance cooperation and facilitate rapid growth between the two nations.

It is worth noting that President **Obiang Nguema Mbasogo** holds the distinction of being **the longest-serving president in history**. Additionally, he currently serves as the head of the **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)**, a regional bloc comprising countries such as **Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and São Tomé and Príncipe**.

The country is a member of the African Union, Francophonie (with 86 members), OPEC and the **Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP)**.

On 1 January 1985, the country became the first non-Francophone African member of the franc zone, adopting the **CFA franc** as its currency. The national currency, the ekwele, had previously been linked to the Spanish peseta.

#### ---A BACKGROUNDER on The Republic of Equatorial Guinea---



*Equatorial Guinea: Population: 1.7 Mn, GDP: \$10.04 Bn, GDP per capita: \$6,502 (95<sup>th</sup>); On Average the richest country of Africa; But with wealth distributed unevenly, most of the population lives in abject poverty.*

*Reference: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equatorial\\_Guinea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equatorial_Guinea)*

Equatorial Guinea consists of two parts:

1. an **insular region**:

- i. the islands of Bioko: the northernmost part of Equatorial Guinea: It is the site of the country's capital, **Malabo** ; The only **International airport** of Equatorial Guinea is in Malabo.
- ii. Annobón, a small volcanic island which is the only part of the country south of the equator.

2. a mainland region, called **Río Muni**.

**Río Muni** is the location of

- **Bata**, Equatorial Guinea's largest city and
- **Ciudad de la Paz**, the country's planned **future capital**.

Río Muni also includes **several** small offshore islands. Three of the islands are as follows:



- I. **Corisco**: located 29 km southwest of the Río Muni estuary that defines the border with Gabon, Corisco has an area of 14 km<sup>2</sup> and its highest point is 35 m above sea level. The most important settlement on the island is **Gobe**.
- II. **Elobey Grande**, or **Great Elobey**, lies at the mouth of the Mitémélé River. It is sparsely inhabited.
- III. **Elobey Chico**: also lies at the mouth of the Mitémélé River. It is now uninhabited. It served as the capital of Río Muni, at the beginning of the Spanish rule.

The **Río Muni** is bordered by **Cameroon** on the north and **Gabon** on the south and east

**Equatorial Guinea** is divided into eight provinces:

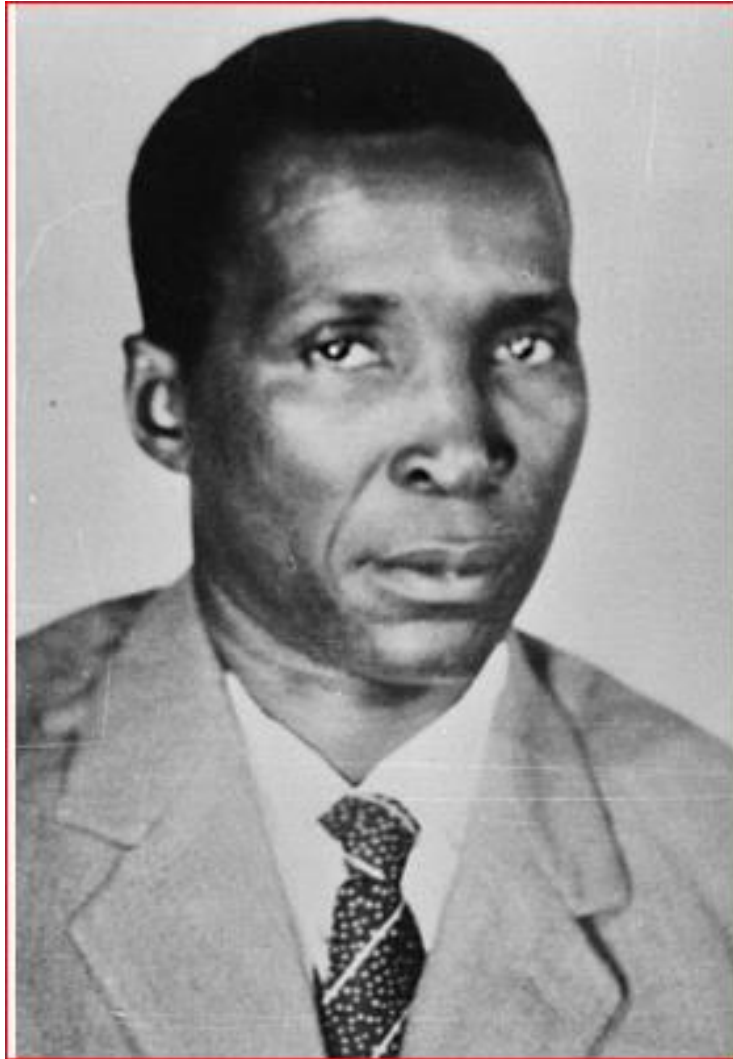
- 1) **Annobón:** (In the map on page 2, Annobon is an island at the bottom-left). The province consists of the island of **Annobón and its associated islets** in the Gulf of Guinea. Population: 5,314 inhabitants in 2021. The official language is Spanish but most of the inhabitants speak a creole form of Portuguese. The island's main industries are fishing and forestry.
- 2) **Bioko Norte: Northern part** of the island of Bioko. Population: 300, 374 in 2015. Two important cities are: **Malabo:** the capital of Equatorial Guinea, Population: 0.3 Mn in 2018; **Rebola** (the provincial capital), Population: 8, 259 in 2001.
- 3) **Bioko Sur: Southern part** of the island of Bioko: Bioko Population: 34,674 in 2015; capital: Luba, Population: 7,000
- 4) **Centro Sur: the central part of Rio Muni**, Population: 0.14 Mn in 2015, capital: **Evinayong**, lying on a hill-top, Population: 7,997 in 2001
- 5) **Djibloho:** also the **central part of Rio Muni** with the **future capital** of Equatorial Guinea at **Ciudad de la Paz** (City of Peace): projected to have around 200,000 inhabitants, a new Parliament building, a number of presidential villas and an area of 8150 hectares.
- 6) **Kié-Ntem:** located in the **North-Eastern part of Rio Muni**, Population: 0.18 Mn, Capital of Ebebiyín with a population of 36,565 in 2012.
- 7) **Litoral:** the **coastal part of Rio Muni**, Population: 0.37 Mn, capital at the port city of **Bata**, with a population of 0.17 Mn
- 8) **Wele-Nzas:** the **Eastern part of Rio Muni**, Population: 0.19 Mn, with its capital at **Mongomo**, with a population of 7,251 in 2012.

**POLITICS:** Equatorial Guinea gained independence from Spain on October 12, 1968.

After becoming independent, Equatorial Guinea was ruled by President **Francisco Macías Nguema**. Early in his rule, he established a one-party state ruled by his **United National Workers' Party**.

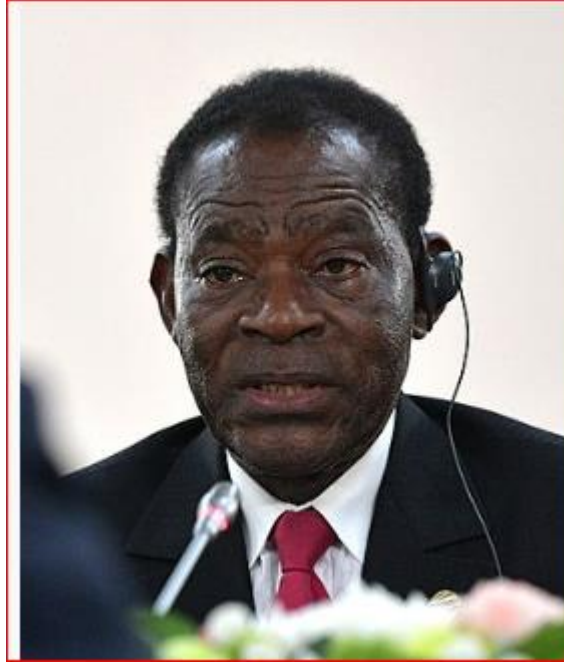
In 1972, he declared himself *President for life*, which was ratified by a referendum in 1973.

According to various sources, anywhere from 20,000 to 80,000 of the roughly 200,000 to 300,000 people living in the country were killed under his regime, with tens of thousands more fleeing the country to avoid persecution. His rule also led to significant brain drain as intellectuals and educated classes were particular targets for his persecution.



**Francisco Macías Nguema**  
later Africanised to **Masie Nguema Biyogo Ñegue Ndong**  
**President** from 12 October 1968 to 3 August 1979

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1979, he was overthrown in a bloody coup d'état by his nephew **Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**. A 2-week long Civil War ensued after which Macías Nguema was captured. Macias was subsequently tried and executed by a firing squad on 29 September 1979.



**Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo:** *President of Equatorial Guinea from August 3, 1979  
Major General & Chief of General Staff, Armed Forces of Equatorial Guinea from 1968-1982*

Equatorial Guinea is essentially a one-party state dominated by Obiang's **Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea** (PDGE). The constitution grants Obiang sweeping powers, including the power to rule by decree.

Obiang is Africa's second-longest serving dictator after Cameroon's **Paul Biya**. **Paul Biya** has served as Head of State as the Prime Minister from 30 June 1975 to 6 November 1982 and then as President from 6<sup>th</sup> November 1982.

*Equatorial Guinea, on an average, has the highest GDP per capita in Africa. However, most of the wealth of this country has been misappropriated by a few families and 70% of people live on less than a dollar per day. In 2022, the country's **Gini coefficient** was **58.8**. [www.DiGiNews360.com](http://www.DiGiNews360.com) is pleased to see that Russia would bring its mining technologies to develop Equatorial Guinea. But Russia must avoid being used by a few families to accumulate even a larger wealth in the Bank accounts in the west. Russia must bring education for the masses along with the technologies for mining.*